

IN THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Thirty Thousand Soldiers Ask Homestead Data

N EARLY 30,000 letters from former soldiers asking information about the opening of farm lands in the Central West by the Reclamation Service have been received at the offices here in the Interior Department, and at the land offices located on the farm areas themselves. It is estimated that some 4,500 men will make formal application accompanied by cash deposits for the 280 farms of about eighty acres each which are to be "raffled off" in Nebraska and Wyoming. Part of the raffle took place last week and the finals will be held on the 16th when a small area in Northern Wyoming will be thrown open for settlement.

Many applications were made here in Washington for land in Western Nebraska. The money was deposited here and the applicant's name was wired to the place where the drawing will be held to insure his getting an equal chance with those who may be on the spot.

The charges for the initial deposit were lowered last week from \$5.10 an acre to \$1.70 an acre. The first charge covered payment for three years, but it was thought that it might make it easier for the former soldiers if that charge was split over that same time thus requiring a smaller initial payment and allowing the men to use their capital for operating expenses incident to building homes and buying needed machinery for tilling the virgin soil.

Another ruling was made prohibiting the winners from taking possession of the land for the purpose of selling it. Instances of this have occurred where a winner in the draw would appear at the land office and relinquish his right to the land. At his elbow would appear a man who would say, "I'll take that section." Theoretically the section was open for any one in the country, but practically the man who stood there was the only one who ever had a chance to obtain the free land. The rest of the deal where the money was passed from the purchaser to the seller took place outside the office building. Now under the new ruling if a man does not want the land it is turned into the general office and the title will go to some person when the next section is opened under the regular conditions.

Unemployment Conference.

PLANS for the conference to be held here on the unemployment question were brought before the Cabinet last week. It was decided that the number of delegates should be placed at thirty this being a slight advance over the number previously thought to be necessary to get quick action. The conference will have as its object ways and means of cutting down the amount of actual unemployment on the part of the breadwinners in families as distinct from the large number of people who went to work merely to obtain extra pocket money in flush times and whose numbers are now counted in the figures made public relating to the total number of unemployed persons in the nation. It is thought that the number of actual breadwinners out of jobs will be much lower than the extremely large figures representing total unemployment.

Secretary Hoover, who has the conference matters in charge, stated that the meeting would probably be held during the week of September 19. Every effort is being made to select delegates who will represent the country geographically and at the same time represent the larger employment industries. Every group and class will be represented if possible.

Surveys are now being made by government experts on the unemployment situation, and their figures will be presented to the conference for a basis for action.

Cuts Navy Yard Pay.

A REDUCTION in wages for navy yard employees all over the country, amounting to from 10 to 20 per cent, was ordered last week by the Secretary. The order is to take effect this coming September 16, and will reduce the pay of about 6,000 workers in the yard here. In all some 68,000 employees are affected.

Wages of laborers are fixed at 41 cents an hour under the new scale and the skilled mechanics will draw 73 cents an hour. The scale will be effective for one year. The reduction would make possible the employment of more men, it was estimated, since the amount in the budget has already been fixed.

Under the new system, the Navy Department stated, a man may obtain higher pay by proving his efficiency and may be placed on a lower scale if he fails to demonstrate that he is capable of performing the tasks to which he is assigned.

The navy yard employees are classified into various groups, of which those affected by the new plan of payment are Groups Nos. I, II and III. Group I consists of what is customarily denominated as unskilled labor; Group II, semi-skilled labor, and Group III, skilled labor.

The method of employment at present in force

is as follows: Upon employment a mechanic is either placed in the highest pay grade or carried for two weeks to determine whether or not he is a mechanic, during that period being usually carried at the intermediate or minimum rate. He is carried for six months on probation and then placed, if satisfactory, on the highest pay rate. The commandant or other officer in charge at the yard or station may at present reduce for inefficiency a man carried at the highest rate of pay to the intermediate rate of pay and thereafter to the minimum rate of pay if he still shows inefficiency. Thereafter should a man be unable to hold down his job he is discharged.

CHEMICALS BRING RAIN



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AT Medicine Hat, Canada, C. M. Hatfield, of California (shown in inset), was paid \$8,000 for drawing more than four inches of rain on parched fields. He set up a great tank and filled it with a chemical mixture which he claims exercises a drawing power on suspended moisture.

The change proposed is that upon employment men shall serve through the probationary six months prior to reaching the highest pay classification of their trade. Thereafter they are to be held to the proper standard of efficiency, and if they fall below that standard they may be given another six months' probationary trial, at the end of which period if they have demonstrated during the six months their ability and willingness to do first-class work they shall be restored to first-class pay. If they have not, then they shall be dismissed from the yard or station.

The purpose of the above arrangement is to insure that all navy yard mechanics are competent and to make clear to them that they cannot hold their position unless they are efficient; that is to say, not only capable, but actually doing efficient work. The increased skill and zeal thus provided are relied upon to produce considerable economies.

From the workman's point of view his pay becomes of the first class or maximum rate dependent upon himself entirely rather than upon the class of work that he is put to do.

The criterion is therefore not the work to be done, but the efficiency of the man doing it.

Would Prevent Crime.

OUTLINING the new plans of the bureau of investigation in the Department of Justice last week, William J. Burns, new bureau head, stated that prevention rather than detection of crime would be the main objective. It is also hoped that it may be possible to work out a plan whereby people may be protected in their constitutional rights and not arrested indiscriminately by those flashing badges and without due authority of law. Holding prisoners incommunicado is another evil which Burns hopes to put a stop to.

To carry out these plans the most complete rogues' gallery in the world is being collected in Washington.

"I have always been a great believer in prevention," explained Mr. Burns. "Perhaps that is why I have been rather unpopular with the general run of detectives," he commented, with a smile. "It is always much more important to prevent crimes than it is to catch the criminals. In preventing crimes you are

PROSPECTS for the world's wheat supply, while not so satisfactory as was expected during the first part of the current season, show at the present time no cause for serious alarm, says the Department of Agriculture.

Nearly all of Northern and Central Europe will have larger wheat crops this year than last, according to the last estimates made by the bureau, Belgium and Greece being the only countries in which smaller crops are expected.

Outside of Europe, British India was most seriously affected by the drought. The dryness and the hot winds that have prevailed throughout most of the growing season have resulted in the very low yield of 250,469,000 bushels of wheat, or about 50,000,000 bushels less than the quantity normally consumed in that country. With the rice crop also seriously affected, India is expected to import wheat this year instead of exporting it. In an average year before the world war India exported over 50,000,000 bushels of wheat.

A very unsatisfactory feature in the present international situation is the hopeless condition of the Russian crops. Unofficial reports state that during last autumn and the spring of this year only a very small area was sown to the various crops, resulting in a failure to produce sufficient food for the country's needs. It is also reported unofficially that a considerable amount of wheat will yet be imported by Russia this year.

In Northern Africa the wheat crop was generally larger than last year. In Algeria threshing results show a better yield than was expected earlier in the season. In Tunis bad weather reduced the yields somewhat from those expected earlier, while in Morocco the crop was generally reported as satisfactory. According to estimates published by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, these three countries are expected to produce, for 1921, a yield of 66,138,000 bushels of wheat, compared with 36,743,000 bushels in 1920.

Hawaii Against Plant Pests.

A FEDERAL QUARANTINE to protect Hawaii against the entry of injurious plant pests, especially the sugar-cane borer, the alfalfa weevil, the cotton boll weevil, the papaya fruit fly, and certain insect enemies of the fruit of the avocado, was announced today by the Federal Horticultural Board, United States Department of Agriculture, to become effective October 1, 1921.

As possible carriers of the pests, regulations are provided governing the movement of sugar cane, corn, cotton, alfalfa and fruits of the avocado and the papaya from the United States to the Territory. These restrictions, however, do not apply to commercial shipments of these plants, such shipments being safeguarded under territorial regulations. As ship's stores or in possession of crews or passengers they will be under restriction, and government inspectors will see that they are not brought into the Territory through the various ports.

War Finance Advances.

The War Finance Corporation today announces that it has agreed to make an advance of \$1,200,000 to a cotton growers' association in Arizona for the purpose of financing the domestic sale of cotton.

The corporation also announces that it has agreed to make a further advance of \$150,000 to a co-operative association in California for the purpose of assisting in financing the exportation of canned fruits.

preventing men and women from becoming criminals.

"It is my intention to make this bureau of investigation not only the greatest detective agency in the world, but a very distinct agency in the far more important work of purging the world from crime. If we make the prompt detection of the criminal sure and certain, so that he will always face the fact that arrest and punishment are quick and sure, he will hesitate a long time before committing a crime.

"First, we are building up here a great international rogues' gallery, where the photographs, finger prints and Bertillon measurements of every criminal will be kept. This rogues' gallery will be open to all officers in charge of law enforcement—to catch a crook or to trace a missing person.

"Next we will encourage the closest co-operation between the Federal bureau and all police officers throughout the country, from the chiefs of police in the great cities to the sheriffs and constables in communities all over the country. They will all have a part in the great drive by the mobilized forces of law and order to prevent crime as well as to detect crime and bring the criminals to justice.

"Thus, we feel that it will be possible to reduce to a minimum the chances of the escape of any criminal. This certainty of being caught up with will automatically set the criminals to looking for other work, because they will no longer be able to get away with it."